

edward johnson building
faculty of music
university of toronto



CHAMBER MUSIC

OF

BRUCE PENNYCOOK AND DENNIS PATRICK

WALTER HALL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1980

8 P.M.

PROGRAM

The Yonge Street Variations (Jan.'80)

Pennycook

Viola - Doug Perry

Tape - performed by the Queen's University
Percussion Ensemble

This work was first conceived in 1975 as a set of jazz variations for Toronto violist Steve Dann in the style of such improvisors as Stephan Grappeli and Joe Venuti. The current version is a complete reconsideration of the original concept in which only the structural design of the 12-bar blues is retained. The melodic material, though conforming to the basic harmonic plan of the blues, is an extremely chromatic interpretation of these chords. The tape/percussion accompaniment is modelled after "street concerts" one might hear on the Yonge Street strip.

Four Spanish Songs (1973)

Patrick

Soprano - Lorelyn Morgan

Violin - Marc Destrubé

Violin - Mark Friedman

Viola - Doug Perry

Cello - Elizabeth Dolin

Texts - Federico Garcia Lorca

1. Variations

The still water of the air
under the bough of the echo

The still waters of the water
under a frond of stars

The still waters of your mouth
under a thicket of kisses.

2. Schematic Nocturne

Fennel, serpent and rush

Aroma, scent and penumbra.

Air, earth and solitude

(The ladder reaches to the moon)

3. Half Moon

The moon goes over the water,
How tranquil the sky is!
She goes scything slowly
the old shimmer from the river;
meanwhile a young frog
takes her for a little mirror

4. Pause of the Clock

I sat down
in a space of time.
It was a backwater
of silence,
a white silence,
a formidable ring
wherein the stars
collided with the twelve floati
black numerals.

Na' Sfacciata d'a Finestra (1980)

Patrick

(Glances from the window)

Text written and performed by Nick Mancuso

This is the third work in which I have collaborated with Toronto actor and writer, Nick Mancuso. About the title, Mancuso writes the following: "Na'sfacciata d'a finestra is an expression my maternal grandmother used to describe life, literally, a momentary poke through a window in which we glimpse a passing parade, and then return to unknowing."

INTERMISSION

Three Miniatures (for Harp, Flute and Clarinet) Pennycook
(1972, rev. 1979)

Harp - Nora Bumanis

Flute - Jana Nelson

Clarinet - Carolyn Horne

This is a non-serial work in which the composer wished to construct clear economical gestures. The second piece employs three levels of activity: harp- an ostinato, clarinet- a "modified ostinato", flute- free counterpoint.

Three Complaintes: Songs for Lute and Countertenor (1979)

Pennycook

Text: Mervyn Peake (1911-1968)

Lute - Ralph Eibner

Countertenor - David Barber

These songs were composed by request from David Barber and Ralph Eibner, both B.Mus students at Queen's University, Kingston. David Barber suggested setting the nonsense poetry of Mervyn Peake, a British author and humorist. In these songs, the composer has captured some of the traditional qualities of Lute Song and the unusual range of the countertenor.

Phantasy IV for viola and tape (1979)

Patrick

Viola - Doug Perry

Phantasy IV was commissioned by Doug Perry with the assistance of the Ontario Arts Council. The tape part uses as source material only viola sounds (performed by Doug Perry).

DENNIS PATRICK was born in Toronto, and received a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Toronto in 1975.

At present, he teaches with the Theory and Composition Division at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, and is manager of the Electronic Music Studio.

BRUCE PENNYCOOK was born in Toronto, and received a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Toronto in 1974. He has recently graduated from the Doctor of Musical Arts Program at Stanford University in California.

He is an assistant professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Next Concert: Sunday, February 3, 1980, Dvorak Festival
Program VI, ORFORD QUARTET with ANTON KUERTI, piano.
Walter Hall.